

Chief of Station, Vienna
Attn: Chief of Base, Salzburg

4 December 1958

INFO: Chief, EE

GRCROOND/OPERATIONAL

Employment of GRAVIMETRY-1 as Support Agent

ACTION REQUIRED: Concurrence with the proposals set forth below.

1. On 7 November 1958 and the undersigned discussed GRAVIMETRY-1 and the repayment of his AS 75,000.00 KUBARK debt. The consensus was that he should not be pressed to continue cash payments, but be required to work off the remaining AS 21,261.00 by agreeing to perform certain operational support tasks for the Salzburg Base. This suggestion has its origin in two, until now, unrelated problems: a. We are obliged to continue obtaining money from GRAVIMETRY-1 in repayment of his loan from KUBARK; b. SOB will most likely have need for operational support facilities in and around Salzburg. It seems to us that the problem of GRAVIMETRY-1's loan payments can be solved and SOB's probable support needs partially filled by employing GRAVIMETRY-1 as a support agent on the understanding that his monthly salary will automatically be credited against the unpaid balance of his loan.

2. Aside from these two points and from the possibility that continued demands for cash payments (which are a relatively serious drain on the monthly income with which he must support seven children) may sour his attitude towards us and thereby create a potential security hazard with respect to GRAVIMETRY-1, it is somewhat incongruous that case officers should continue contacting GRAVIMETRY-1 solely for the purpose of collecting a few hundred schillings a month. In our opinion, this situation is not only an inefficient use of case officer time, but reflects a lack of imagination on our part in not fully exploiting an available asset. The prime factor in bringing the entire problem more forcibly to our attention is of course the recent re-establishment of SOB and the many difficulties of setting up an operational base. At the time of GRAVIMETRY-1's termination (January 1958), we could not in good conscience have considered using him in the capacity now suggested.

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3. We realize that it is generally not good practice to rehire terminated agents, and would not in any case reinstate him in the same capacity as that held at the time of termination. However, the circumstances of GRAVIMETRY-1's termination were such that we cannot see any serious objections to employing him as a support agent - an activity completely different from his previous work. He was released in January 1958 as a result of security breaches committed by GRAVIMETRY-2 and of other circumstances arising therefrom including so called "poor operational habits" (see HQMA-29980, MAIN-227 and HQMA-30656, MAIN-230). - A review of the files shows that he had not committed any more serious operational errors than most presently active SOB agents with the exception of his unauthorized "incognito" visit to TSCHERNUTTER, a Salzburg police official whom GRAVIMETRY-2 had tried to recruit. - However, at that time it was decided that he could no longer be used as a staybehind agent and, in order to protect the security of the only agent retained (GRAVIMETRY-4), he was told that the entire group was to be deactivated and put on ice. In picking him up for support work no mention of staybehind operations need be or will be made, thus preserving the fiction that GRAVIMETRY-4 was terminated along with the rest. (We have, by the way, heard of no public repercussions following his and GRAVIMETRY-2's indiscretions, nor have we any positive information indicating that GRAVIMETRY-1 has been compromised.)

4. Provided Headquarters concurs, we plan to approach GRAVIMETRY-1 with the proposition that he perform certain support functions (rent post office boxes, make special purchases, provide secure temporary storage facilities, perhaps obtain safehouses or spot likely safehouse keepers, etc.) in return for which we will agree to reduce his debt at a rate of AS 500.00 per month and to reimburse him for any purely operational expenses. (Any additional loan payments he may care to make will, of course, be accepted.) No task will be given him which might in any way endanger GRAVIMETRY-4's position, nor will staybehind operations be allowed in any way to enter into his new activities.

5. In order that we may process any necessary paperwork as rapidly as possible, we request that you let us know the status of GRAVIMETRY-1's clearances and whether a formal operational proposal will be required.



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